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# South Cumberland NEWS

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Tory Rushton, left and Mayor Murray Scott, right held the ribbon to officially open the Nova Scotia Gem & Mineral Show. Doing the cutting was Kerwin Davison, who along with his wife, Anne, yellow jacket to his right, were recognized for their dedication to beginning days of Rockhound Roundup. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

## Pugwash's \$2.198-Million Library Project Taking Shape

By Darrell Cole

Led by Iron Maple Constructors, work on the project began three weeks ago near the intersection of Highway 6 and Durham Street in the village.

If everything goes as planned, the project will be finished by the end of October with the library opening early in 2023.

"Everything is moving along as scheduled," project lead Roger MacIsaac said. "We started four weeks ago with the necessary groundwork

and continued with putting the footings in place. Now we're at the point where we've started pouring the slab."

MacIsaac said it won't be long before walls begin going up along with a roof. Once that's done, work will move into the interior over the remainder of the summer and into early fall.

The 3,700-square-foot library will replace the library in that has called the village's former train station home since 1988.

The project is the culmination of a process that began eight years ago, in 2014, when the Pugwash Library Centre Feasibility Study and Concept Design was developed.

The report explored community needs, potential markets, conceptual design, and potential sites for the envisioned centre. The analysis identified the current library as an important and well-used community asset, however, challenges associated with the space in the former train station emphasized the need for a new and improved facility to better serve community needs.

The need for a community library has been highlighted for several years: before the 2014 Pugwash Centre Feasibility Study and Concept Design was developed, it was established that building a new library was one of the key community priorities.



Project leader Roger MacIsaac (left) talks to project superintendent Dylan MacIsaac of Iron Maple Constructors about the \$2.198-million Pugwash Library project under construction in the village. (Darrell Cole Photo)

## Returning Gem Show Outstanding Success

By Lawrence R Nicoll

On August 19-21st the Nova Scotia Gem & Mineral Show returned to Parrsboro at the Lions Recreation Center. To say it was a success is an understatement. The show opened with a welcoming from committee members, the Honourable Tory Rushton, MLA Cumberland South and Cumberland County, Mayor Murray Scott

Recognition was given to Kerwin & Anne Davison for the role they played in the early beginning of the Rockhound Roundup.

There were lots of vendors although a handful of past ones were not present.

Regardless, there was lots to see, touch and of course buy. The success of the show continued as the geological walks, talks demonstrations and workshops were well attended.

The overall success of the show is reflected in the remarks from Robert who was a vendor at Gneiss Guy exhibit, where there was a long line up at his location, said "Nowhere else in Canada do people line up nicely like that. At many places they are four/five deep grabbing and pushing. And we Martimers did this all on our own, without being requested".

The new group organiz-

ing the show and bringing it back to life is "The Parrsboro Rock Shop Society" (In tribute to Eldon George) was certified in January 2020. The agreed objectives, "to sponsor, organize and operate the annual Nova Scotia Gem and Mineral Show in Parrsboro, Nova Scotia". According to Karen Dickinson, committee leader, "Preparations were made in 2020 for an August show, but the pandemic happened, and our activities were delayed until this year".

The Committee is comprised of community members who wanted to keep the show going and to ensure the community continued to receive the benefits of 3,000 + extra people using accommodations, restaurants, the grocery store, community food events, campgrounds, ATMs, the benefits go on and on.

The Gem Show, formerly known as the Rockhound Roundup began in 1966. This was the 55th Show and it was obvious the people were anxious and ready for it! The Gem & Mineral Show Committee worked long and

hard to ensure there were as few glitches as possible. When the call went out for volunteers, the response was amazing, and they all helped to ensure the show went smoothly.

Committee members and local residents say, "To have a facility like the Lions' Arena available for rent is such an asset to the Community. Their

group has been supportive of the Committee's efforts from Day 1 and their venue gives us a place to showcase some of the finest exhibits ever to come to the area".

The committee is adamant, as soon as the final wrap-up is done for this year's show, ensuring all the bills are paid for food, rentals, signage, printing, everything a start-up organiza-

bers of the library, a measurable endorsement of the facility and value the community has for its public library

"There have been a couple of different versions of what this was going to be. This has come together quickly from completing and issuing the RFP in March, awarding the contract in April and design and detail plans starting in May. It's a priority for the county and it's happening."

Dylan MacIsaac, project superintendent with Iron Maple Constructors, said things have gone very smoothly to date, despite several challenges, including labour shortages - something almost every con-

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With a well stocked sales display deciding what to purchase. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



Getting up high enables a photographer to show only a small portion of the vendor area crowded with booths and customers at the Lions Recreation Centre. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



The enthusiasm for the return of the Gem & Mineral Show was evident because booths experienced large crowds during the two days. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

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